

WYCOMBE FIND THE WAY TO GOAL

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WAND. ... 3 ... BROMLEY ... 1

FORMER amateur international and Wycombe captain, Paul Bates, today scored the first goal and inspired a Wycombe return to form in his first senior appearance for Wycombe Wanderers since rejoining the club from Tooting and Mitcham, against Bromley in an Isthmian League match.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Lewis; Thomas, Fisher, Gale; L. Worley; Blair, Bates, James, Hyde.

Bromley: Price; Whittington, Norman; Nash, Joyce, Nelson; Hall, Viney, Studley, Nottage, Stevens.

Referee: Mr. E. L. Press (Staines).

Dave Thomas, returning to the Wycombe team after six weeks' injury, opened out the play with some shrewd, long passes and in strong home attacks first Hyde and then Blair tested goalkeeper Price with powerful ground shots.

Twice, powerful drives by Gale were blocked in the Bromley goalmouth, but Bates missed the best chance for Wycombe when he crashed the ball wide when well placed, after a fine run up the field by right back Beck.

Wycombe kept the initiative but Bromley were very quick in recovery and their right wing pair were always dangerous in counter-attacks.

Brown saved smartly from Studley, and Studley shot inches wide in another goalmouth melee after a short pass from Viney.

BATES SCORES

Wycombe took the lead after 26 minutes when Blair broke through and crossed unselfishly to BATES, who found the mark with a powerful drive.

A few minutes later, Bromley were awarded a penalty for a foul on Nottage, but right winger Hall shot wide from the spot.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, Bromley 0.

Another fine run by Beck, almost the entire length of the field, put Wycombe on the offensive early in the second half, but again the Bromley

backs covered so well that the home forwards were unable to find an opening.

Bates deserved better luck with one terrific left-foot drive which cannoned against the cross-bar and another drive by Hyde was inches wide.

When Bromley hit back, Fisher was prominent in a Wycombe defence which gave nothing away, his cool interceptions being a feature of the play.

SURPRISE EQUALISER

Bromley's equaliser, 20 minutes after the re-start, came as a surprise. NOTTAGE seized on a long pass and deceived Brown with a quick cross-shot.

A few minutes later, Bates almost scored again for Wycombe with a header from a Hyde centre, but he missed an easy one from five yards when he shot tamely at Price after good work by Worley.

BECK PENALTY

Half-an-hour after the resumption, BECK, in another of his sallies upfield, was fouled in the area, and himself scored from the spot.

The Bromley goal had several narrow escapes as Wycombe attacked strongly in the closing stages, notably when Hyde hit the upright, and five minutes before the end BLAIR added Wycombe's third goal from Worley's centre.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 3
BROMLEY 1

WYCOMBE END GOAL FAMINE

Wycombe W. 3 Bromley 1

FORMER amateur international centre-forward Paul Bates, back with his hometown club after his spell with Tooting, ended Wycombe Wanderers' recent goal famine and helped them to an Isthmian League victory over close rivals Bromley.

Bates's goal in the 26th minute was the first from a Wycombe forward in six consecutive games. Although he made the attack more dangerous, Bates missed several easy chances and it was not until the last 15 minutes that the home side finally made sure of the points.

With Viney and Hall menacing on the right and Nottage an industrious schemer, Bromley claimed a fair share of the first half and were unlucky to be a goal down at half-time.

Ten minutes after Bates had converted Blair's pass, Hall shot wide from a Bromley penalty. Bromley's equaliser came through Nottage 20 minutes after the interval.

Wycombe, switching their wing men Worley and Hyde and with Bates adopting a roving commission, retaliated more strongly in the closing stages.

When right-back Johnny Beck, whose dashes upfield were a feature of the game, was fouled in the area he converted the spot-kick himself, and five minutes before the end Blair added the third for Wycombe from a Worley centre.